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SUBJECT: AKROPOLIS EDITORIAL ON ANTI-AMEICANISM

REF: ATHENS 1009

1. SUMMARY: THE GREEK PRESS CONTINUES, IN GENERAL, TO BE CRITICAL OF THE US IN ITS TREATMENT OF US-GREEK RELATIONS. IN RECENT WEEKS, HOWEVER, (AND BEFORE THE CUTOFF OF US AID TO TURKEY WHICH WAS WIDELY APPLAUDED IN THE GREEK PRESS) WE HAVE NOTED SOME INDICATIONS THAT A SLIGHT SHIFT MAY BE TAKING PLACE TOWARD MORE BALANCED COVERAGE OF THIS SUBJECT. FOR EXAMPLE, AN EDITORIAL ON FEB 6 IN AKROPOLIS (CENTER, POPULAR DAILY) ON "ANTI-AMERICANISM" TAKES A CONSTRUCTIVE LOOK AT RELATIONS WITH THE US AND CALLS FOR AN END TO ANTI-AMERICAN DEMAGOGUERY, WHICH THE EDITORIAL ARGUES DOES NOT SERVE GREEK INTERESTS. THE EDITORIAL IS ONE OF A SERIES ON PRINCIPAL PROBLEMS CONFRONTING GREECE TODAY. END SUMMARY

2. THE AKROPOLIS EDITORIAL BEGINS WITH A REVIEW OF GREECE'S SECURITY POSITION, WITH EMPHASIS ON THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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POTENTIAL THREAT FROM THE NORTH. THE CYPRUS PROBLEM AND

RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN GREEK-TURKISH RELATIONS ARE MENTIONED AS COMPLICATING FACTORS. IN THIS SITUATION, THE EDITORIAL STATES, IN ORDER TO MEET ITS NATIONAL AND DEFENSE PROBLEMS GREECE MUST, FIRST, HAVE STRONG ARMED FORCES AND, SECOND, POLITICAL, MORAL AND MILITARY SUPPORT FROM ALLIES. THE ABILITY, UNITY AND COURAGE OF GREEK FIGHTING MEN ENSURES THE PREPAREDNESS AND STRENGTH OF THE ARMED FORCES. THE EDITORIAL THEN ASKS WHERE WILL THE BROADER ALLIANCE SUPPORT COME FROM? IT RULES OUT THE SOVIET UNION BECAUSE OF ITS SOCIAL SYSTEM WHICH IS IN CONTRADICTION TO GREEK SUPPORT FOR FREEDOM, DEMOCRACY AND A LIBERAL ECONOMY. MOREOVER, IT POINTS OUT, THE SOVIETS CANNOT HELP GREECE. THEY SEE CYPRUS AND GREEK-TURKISH PROBLEMS AS OPPORTUNITIES TO EXPLOIT.

- 3. AKROPOLIS ALSO RULES ENGLAND OUT--IT LACKS POWER AND DOES NOT SUPPORT GREEK INTERESTS ON CYPRUS. EUROPE IS FRAGMENTED AND LITTLE INTERESTED IN HELPING GREECE. MOREOVER, IT LACKS POWER TO ACT DECISIVELY. IN VIEW OF THIS, AND KEEPING IN MIND GREECE'S MILITARY WITHDRAWAL FROM NATO, THE EDITORIAL ASKS WHAT IS LEFT? ONLY THE US. ONLY FROM THE US CAN GREECE HOPE TO RECEIVE "NOT ONLY MORAL, BUT EFFECTIVE POLITICAL AND MILITARY SUPPORT." THERE IS NO DOUBT, THE EDITORIAL CONTINUES, THAT THE AMERICAN PEOPLE ARE FRIENDLY TOWARD GREECE. GREEK RIGHTS ARE RECOGNIZED BY MOST AMERICAN POLITICAL FORCES AND THIS IS WHY THE CONGRESS CUT OFF AID TO TURKEY. MOREOVER, THE US GOVERNMENT IS THE ONLY POWER WHICH IS PUTTING PRESSURE ON TURKEY TO CHANGE ITS POLICY ON CYPRUS AND WITH RESPECT TO GREEK-TURKISH RELATIONS.
- 4. UNDER THESE CONDITIONS, THE EDITORIAL ARGUES, INCIDENTS SUCH AS THE RECENT ONE IN CORFU AND, MORE GENERALLY, THE CULTIVATION OF AN ANTI-AMERICAN ATMOSPHERE IN NO WAY SERVE GREEK INTERESTS. GREECE IS UNHAPPY WITH THE US GOVERNMENT BECAUSE, IF IT HAD SUPPORTED GREECE MANY THINGS WOULD HAVE BEEN AVOIDED. ON THE OTHER HAND, THE EDITORIAL NOTES, WE SHOULD NOT UNDERRATE INTERNATIONAL INTERESTS WHICH IMPOSE TACTICS CONTRARY TO THOSE OF GREECE (ON THE US). BUT IN ANY CASE AT THE PRESENT TIME "THE AMERICAN SIDE IS HELPING LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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US INTENSIVELY." SO, THE ARTICLE CONCLUDES, LET THIS ANTI-AMERICAN DEMAGOGUERY CEASE. THIS DOES NOT MEAN THAT GREECE SHOULD BE A LACKEY OF THE US. BUT THERE IS A BIG DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THIS POINT AND ANTI-AMERICAN HYSTERIA.

KURISCH

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